

Presentation Abstract

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Presentation: 229 - Towards a regional approach for animal health provision: The economics of the CaribVET network

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Author(s): **Damian Tago**¹, Renaud Lancelot², Thierry Lefrançois², Nisa Surujbally³, Cedric Lazarus⁴, Paula Morales⁵, Maria T. Frias Lepoureau⁶, Sandra Vokaty⁷, Jennifer Pradel¹, ¹CIRAD, Petit Bourg, Guadeloupe; ²CIRAD, Montpellier, France; ³CARICOM Secretariat, Georgetown, Guyana; ⁴FAO, Bridgetown, Barbados; ⁵USDA, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; ⁶CENSA, La Habana, Cuba; ⁷PAHO, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. Contact: damian.tago-pacheco@antilles.inra.fr

Abstract: Context: The Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET) has a bottom-up technical and scientific model recognized by CARICOM Secretariat and official veterinary services (VS) in the region. It garners the efforts of VS, labs, universities, research institutes, and international organizations for co-planning and optimizing the cost effectiveness of coordinated efforts. It interacts with surveillance and research to assist in decision making and to advise on best management practices to mitigate the impact of animal diseases on livestock production and health, human health and welfare and to provide sustainable livelihood to the rural economies. Purpose: To show how the coordination of efforts associated with a regional animal health network can lead to more efficient equilibria than an individual approach where countries do not collaborate with one other. Moreover, to identify the sources of benefits and the biggest challenges associated with a regional animal health network. Methods: Based on the CaribVET objectives and a set of its most relevant activities (prioritization, needs assessment, capacity development and evaluation), we propose an economic model in which VS choose the amount of resources to allocate on their control and surveillance strategies. Results: The provision of animal health services by a country generates positive externalities that benefit other countries in the region. Such externalities are generally not considered when planning resources allocation to disease surveillance and control, leading to equilibrium with less resource allocated to animal health provision than what is optimally required in the region. Conclusions: Supranational animal health networks facilitate the flow of relevant information by connecting national VS and other organizations together and propose mechanisms to deal with the under-provision problem taking into account the high disparity among countries in a region. Relevance: The economic benefit assessment is expected to increase advocacy of the network at the highest government and industry levels in the Caribbean countries. The economic model is generic and methodology can be applied to other contexts and regions.

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